

## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to receipt of an Office Action. Upon review, Applicant became aware of typographical errors in claim dependency numbering. Each voluntary amendment to correct a typographical error neither narrows the scope of that claim nor addresses issues related to statutory grounds for patentability.

## Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

### In the Claims

1           1.     An apparatus comprising:  
2                     an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of  
3     data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;  
4                     a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of  
5     data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first  
6     format; and  
7                     a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one  
8     packet back into the data having the first format.

1           11.    The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a  
2                     detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert  
3                     the string of data back into the data having the first format.

1           12.    The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is  
2                     transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

1           13.    The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an  
2                     instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1           14.    The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an  
2                     American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII)

3 format.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first  
2 format is ink input data.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the ink input data is obtained  
2 from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1 17. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 [An] an encoder to encode data having a first format into a  
3 string of data having a second format, the first and second  
4 formats being different; and  
5 a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of  
6 data into at least one packet having a header, the header  
7 identifying the first format, the at least one packet being  
8 transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the packet to  
9 a decoder.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a  
2 detector to detect the second format.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the decoder decodes the  
2 string of data back into the data having the first format.

1 11. A method comprising:

2            encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a  
3            second format, the first and second formats being different;  
4            packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a  
5            header, the header identifying the first format; and  
6            decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the  
7            first format.

1            21.    The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises  
2            detecting the second format and converting the string of data into  
3            the data having the first format.

1            22.    The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is  
2            transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

1            23.    The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an  
2            instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1            24.    The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an  
2            American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1            25.    The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format  
2            is ink input data.

1            26.    The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained  
2            from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1           27.   (Amended) A method comprising:  
2                   [Encoding] encoding data having a first format into a string of  
3                   data having a second format, the first and second formats being  
4                   different; and  
5                   packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a  
6                   header, the header identifying the first format, the at least one  
7                   packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting  
8                   the packet to a decoder.

1           28.   The method of claim 18 wherein decoding comprises detecting  
2                   the second format.

1           29.   The method of claim 19 wherein decoding comprises decoding  
2                   the string of data back into the data having the first format.

1           21.   A computer program product comprising:  
2                   a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied  
3                   therein, the computer program product having:  
4                           computer readable program code for encoding data having a  
5                   first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second  
6                   formats being different;  
7                           computer readable program code for packetizing the string of  
8                   data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first  
9                   format; and

10 computer readable program code for decoding the at least one  
11 packet back into the data having the first format.

1 22. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [11] 21  
2 wherein the computer readable program code for decoding comprises  
3 computer readable program code for detecting the second format and  
4 converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

1 23. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [11] 21  
2 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting  
3 the second format.

1 24. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [13] 23  
2 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM)  
3 infrastructure.

1 25. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [11] 21  
2 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of  
3 Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1 26. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [11] 21  
2 wherein the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

1 27. (Amended) The computer program product of claim [16] 26  
2 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a

3 digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1           28.   A computer program product comprising:  
2   a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied  
3   therein, the computer program product having:  
4               computer readable program code for encoding data having a  
5               first format into a string of data having a second format, the  
6               first and second formats being different; and  
7               computer readable program code for packetizing string of data  
8               into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying  
9               the first format, the at least one packet being transmitted to a  
10              network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.

1           29.   (Amended) The computer program product of claim [18] 28  
2   wherein computer readable program code for decoding comprises  
3   computer readable program code for detecting the second format.

1           30.   (Amended) The computer program product of claim [19] 29  
2   wherein computer readable program code for decoding comprises  
3   computer readable program code for decoding the string of data back  
4   into the data having the first format.



## Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for examination, and such action is respectfully solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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5/30/01

Date